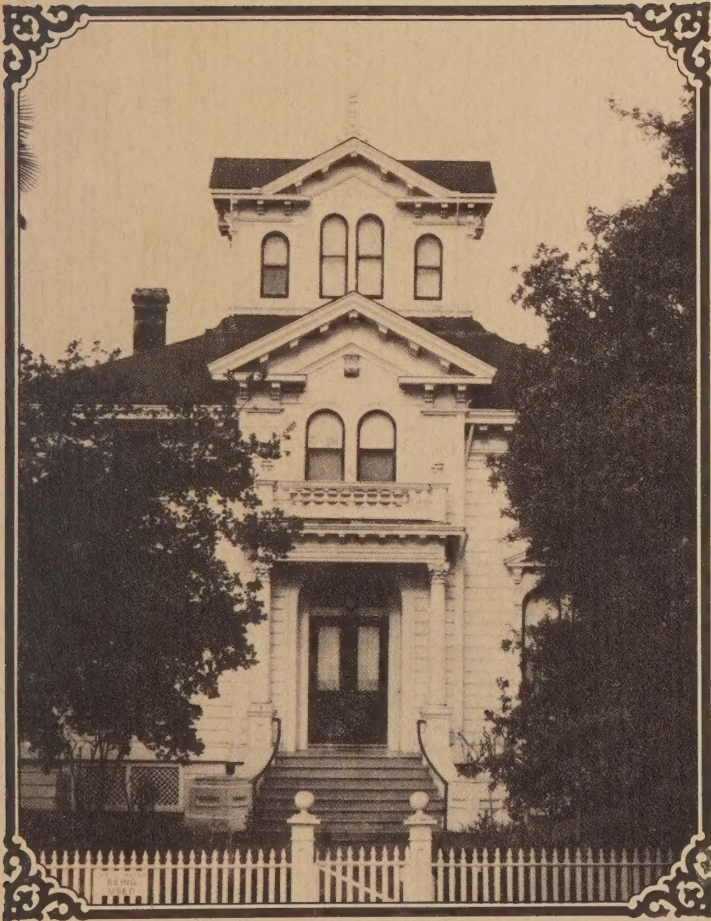


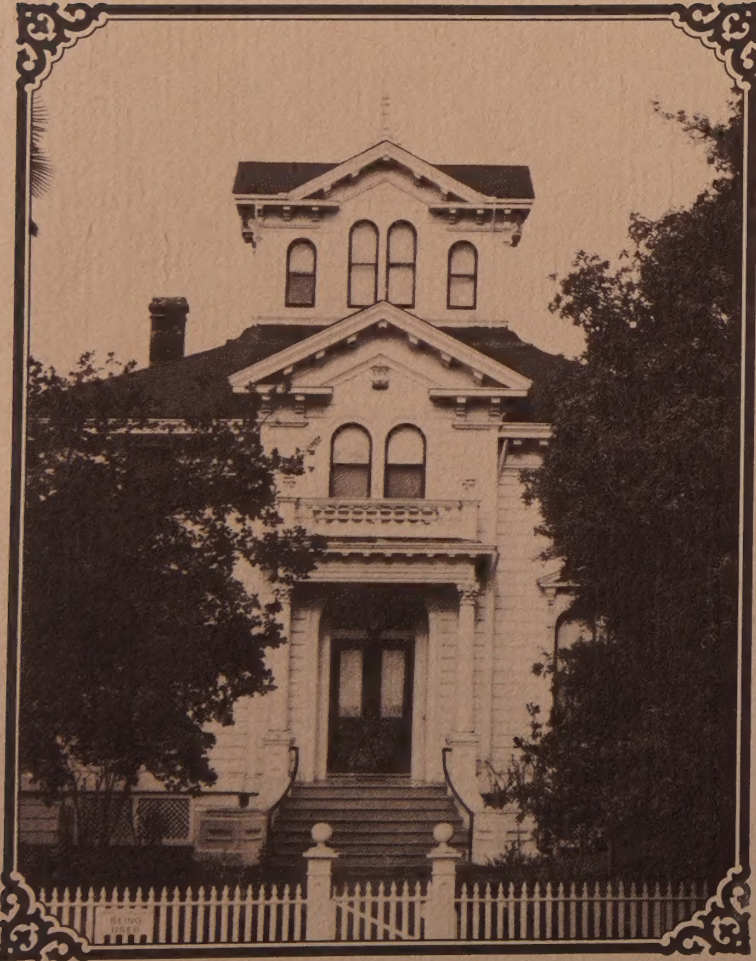
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Landmarks & Preservation Districts

Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board
Oakland, California — Volume One

8102265



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Landmarks & Preservation Districts

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Not Shown on Map

The Abbey
Joaquin Miller Park

Monument to John C. Fremont
Joaquin Miller Park



WHAT MAKES A LANDMARK?

A landmark can be many things—a structure, an object (natural or man-made), a site, or a whole district or neighborhood—any of these with **historical, architectural or aesthetic significance** to the City of Oakland and the surrounding area. A landmark gives meaning to the way we live and who we are.

Sometimes a building becomes a landmark simply because, like Mt. Everest, “It is there.” Ironically, too, a landmark often results because of poverty or neglect—perhaps business moves out of an area, and the owners of a property haven’t the means either to improve it or tear it down, so it remains as it was, a simple text for a historian to read. Other landmarks have been thoughtfully preserved and carefully tended because their owners knew it was important to do so. Still others are designated landmarks, not because of the inherent quality of the structure or site, but because someone of importance lived there, or something of significance to the community happened there. **Age is not the single criterion of a landmark.**

Oakland’s **Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board** and the preservation ordinance were set up in 1974. Sadly, this was too late to save some very important landmarks from destruction, but happily, soon enough to help **develop public awareness of the importance of trying to save the best of what remains.** Although we live in a growth-oriented, build-to-destroy-to-build

culture, more and more, people are becoming aware that we can stop and take note of what is meaningful to our lives from the distant and immediate past, and save it for generations to come.

Landmark designation does not automatically save a building or site, it simply stays a demolition permit and gives time to alert an educated public to what is happening. For this reason, the Landmarks Board encourages citizen participation in its activities. People can help to identify landmarks and work to save threatened ones.

The board meets at 3:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month in Room 211 of Oakland’s City Hall. Members of the board, who are all Oakland residents, are appointed for three year terms by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. After a landmark is researched, the Board adopts a resolution for designation and forwards it to the City Planning Commission for a public hearing. It then goes for final action to the City Council.

(A note of importance: When viewing the landmarks in this booklet, please remember that, with one or two exceptions, the landmark houses are private residences, not public buildings. Enjoy them only from the outside, for they are not open for tours. Please do not disturb the occupants or destroy private property. Thank you!)

NUMBER ONE

Landmarks in Oakland are not selected in the order of their importance, for all are important for various reasons, nor in the order of their age. Sometimes priorities are determined by immediate circumstances.

In 1974, when the Landmarks Board members first took their seats, emergency work was directly at hand—the case of the **Western Pacific Railroad Station**. For many months, Oakland's City Planning Department had been working with the owner of this historic building to help find an adaptive use for it and an appropriate tenant so the station would not be demolished. The Landmarks Board assisted with this project and helped to bring it to a happy conclusion—Oakland Landmark No. 1 was named.

The Western Pacific Railroad Station marks a truly historic happening in Oakland. For more than 50 years, Oakland's port, which is one of the largest container ports in the world, was controlled by a Central (later Southern) Pacific Railroad subsidiary, originally formed by pioneer land developer Horace Carpentier and the Big Four. Other railroads could not get a right-of-way.

Finally, in the 1900's rival railroad tycoon **Jay Gould** of the Western Pacific discovered that Carpentier's holding went only to the high tide line. In the dark of the night, he laid a few miles of track on a stone jetty at low tide, ran a train along the track and staked a claim to a second rail line on the waterfront.

Upon the opening of the station in 1910, the City of Oakland enjoyed its biggest celebration in history. Schools closed, and two giant parades converged upon the station. All the sirens and whistles in the city blew in unison as the first train rolled through. This second transcontinental line soon opened up a rich and thriving trade with the Orient, and the passenger service took thrilled riders over the beautiful Feather River Route to the east. Of particular importance in the 1940's, was the ultra-modern diesel powered streamliner with its Vistadome roof, the *California Zephyr*. For over 30 years, this train carried thousands of passengers including presidents, kings and movie stars to Chicago. Its service was discontinued in 1970 as it was unable to compete with freeways and jet air travel.



Western Pacific Railroad Station
480 Third Street

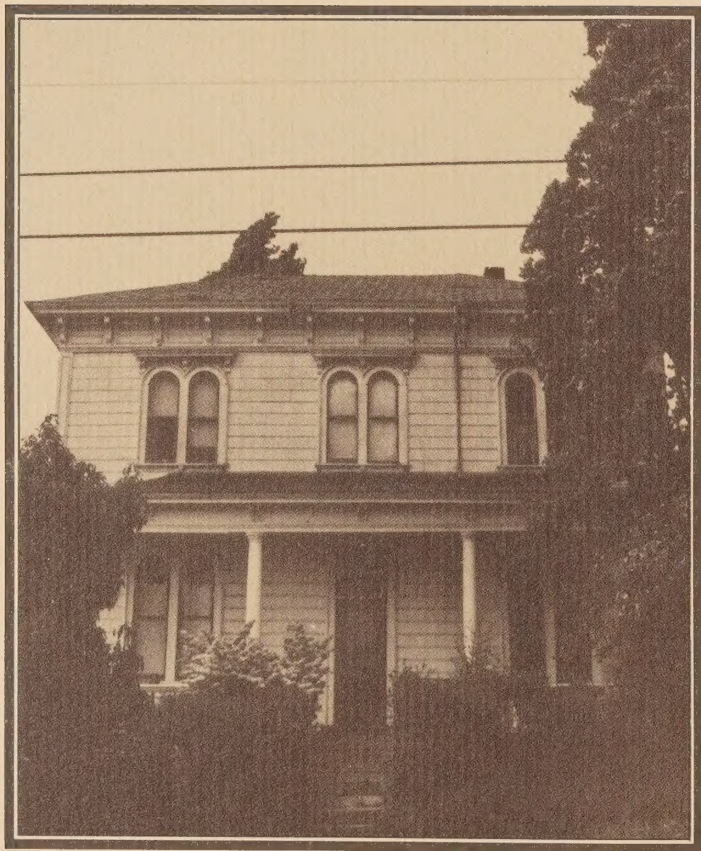
FIRST FAMILY OF OAKLAND

(AND ALBANY, ALAMEDA, BERKELEY, EMERYVILLE,
PIEDMONT AND PARTS OF SAN LEANDRO)

In 1820, **Luis Maria Peralta**, a loyal defender of church and crown for more than forty years and a member of the de Anza Expedition of 1775, received from Pablo de Sola, the last Spanish governor of Alta, California, a land grant. This grant of eleven leagues, or some 44,000 acres today comprises the areas of six and a half cities including Albany, Alameda, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont and parts of San Leandro. Don Luis never lived on his land, but in 1842, divided it among his four sons, and the portion given to **Antonio Maria** became the headquarters of the huge rancho which bore his name, **Rancho San Antonio**, located on today's 34th Avenue. Here the brothers held annual cattle roundups and rodeos and conducted their business of selling hides and tallow to the ships that visited San Francisco Bay.

The first house, built in 1821, was an adobe; this was later replaced by other adobes, guest houses, and work buildings which became part of the 2½ acre hacienda. This estate was an established stop for the Franciscan Fathers following the northern branch of El Camino Real and other travelers. Antonio's wooden Italianate farmhouse, which still stands today, was built in 1870 after the earthquake of 1868 destroyed the main adobe.

It is hoped by neighbors in the vicinity, and history aficionados everywhere, that in the near future an archeological dig can be held on the site of the original large adobe, and that a replica adobe can be built to pay tribute to the "**first family**" of a major portion of the East Bay.



Antonio Peralta Ranch House
34th Avenue and Paxton Street



Arbor Villa Palm Trees E. 28th Street from Park Boulevard to 9th
West side of 9th Avenue from E. 24th-E. 28th
Along Bayview Avenue from E. 28th to 927 Bayview

THE ROAD TO ARBOR VILLA

Only the rows of palm trees, *Washingtonia robusta* (Mexican fan palm) and *Washingtonia filifera* (California fan palm), today mark the way to the site of what was Oakland's most distinguished mansion, **Arbor Villa**. This was the home of one of the East Bay's most influential public benefactors, **Francis Marion "Borax" Smith**. He made millions in the borax industry in the California desert which he invested, lost, remade and eventually lost again. Smith is recognized for extending and consolidating all the East Bay street car lines, developing a ferry and train service to San Francisco, opening up vast areas of Oakland and Berkeley for subdivisions of homes, building hotels and parks at the end of rail lines and taking on other challenging projects as well.

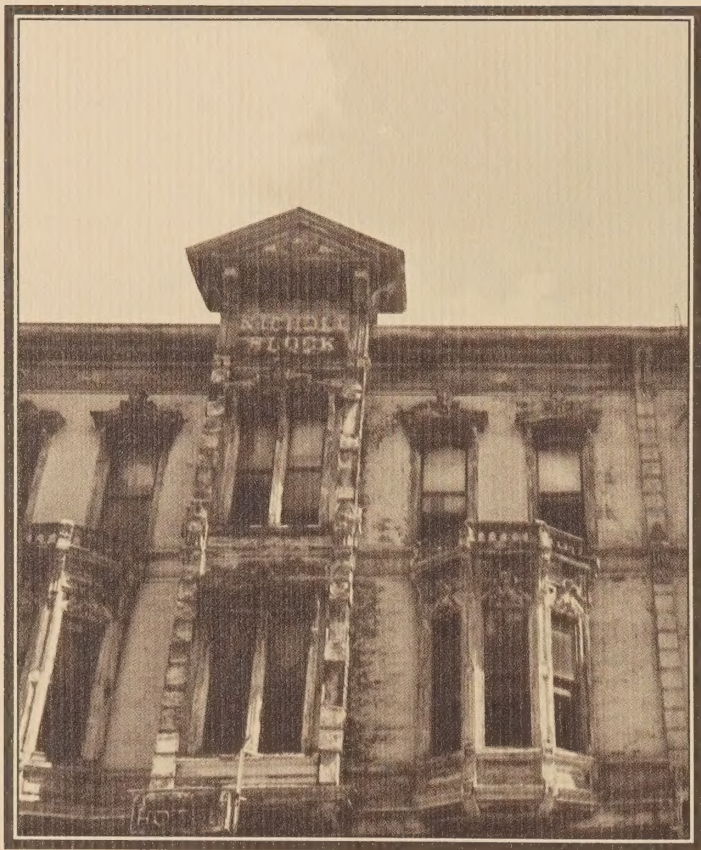
Arbor Villa contained an indoor bowling alley, a pipe organ, a large ballroom and numerous spacious and elegantly furnished bedrooms and living areas where Smith entertained three presidents, business executives, and stars of the stage and motion pictures. After his death in 1931, the house was razed and the land subdivided. Today, the palm trees add a major visual element to the Oakland cityscape and remind us of the glorious botanical gardens on the acreage once surrounding the lavish house.

PRESERVATION DISTRICTS

"Save 'em by the dozen!" that could be the rallying cry for a Preservation District—a fine provision in the law governing the city's renewal areas.

Oakland's first such district, known as **Victorian Row** or the **Old Oakland Project**, is just now getting under way. Soon, the unbroken succession of Victorian structures, fronting both sides of Ninth Street between Washington and Broadway and other nearby streets will be bustling with new offices, shops and restaurants, and will be completely restored and renovated. This area will be accented with planting and park areas and will show its outstanding architectural significance for the City of Oakland and all to enjoy. Parking and other Twentieth Century amenities will be included, but obscured. In addition to the commercial development planned for the district, a storefront "street museum" is being constructed by the Oakland Museum which will make history come to life.

Located on the fringe of Oakland's commercial core and the new City Center hotel and convention area, just a short distance away from the motel, entertainment, and restaurant area of Jack London Square, these buildings have fortunately escaped destruction through the years. In the city's early days, the central district of Oakland gradually moved northward from the Bay; by 1875 it was centered on Ninth Street—an area which experienced a surge of development after Broadway was paved all the way up to Tenth Street in 1864. During this period, the **Wilcox Building**, one of the "gems" of Victorian Row and the first brick building in Oakland, was constructed on the southwest corner of Ninth and Broadway. The **Delger Building** on the northwest corner



The Nicholl Block
Victorian Row



Ninth Street
Victorian Row



The Frederick B. Ginn House
660 Thirteenth Street

was built in 1870 and housed the *Oakland News*, the city's first newspaper.

Oakland's second preservation district, known as **Preservation Park**, includes the area bounded by Grove, Tenth, Castro and Fourteenth Streets. Through a redevelopment program, the city is proposing to retain and rehabilitate the existing architecturally and historically significant buildings and relocate other buildings there in a re-created Victorian neighborhood setting.

Visitors to the preservation district areas during the City Center construction period will have the fun of playing the game of "Find the Building." Two historic houses in the Grove-Shafter freeway right-of-way were moved elsewhere and relocated, the **W.H. Quinn House** and the **James White House**. The former is architecturally interesting, a modified Italianate structure with wood siding applied to resemble stone; its V-shaped bay windows are also unusual. Quinn, a clerk and later manager of Huntington Hopkins Hardware, is typical of many Oaklanders. During his entire working lifetime, he commuted to San Francisco by train and ferry—contributing to Oakland's reputation as a "bedroom community." His house is a much altered example of the work of the noted architect **Arthur Page Brown**, and one of Brown's last surviving structures. It typifies the change from Victorian styles around the turn of the century and is inspired by folk architecture of Europe and English Tudor styles.

James White was one of the founders of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. His pleasant Italianate home was next door to the Pacific Press Building, a landmark and fine example of an early commercial building, owned by the church, which was unfortunately destroyed by fire recently.



The James White House
 Southside of 13th Street (Formerly in freeway-right-of-way)



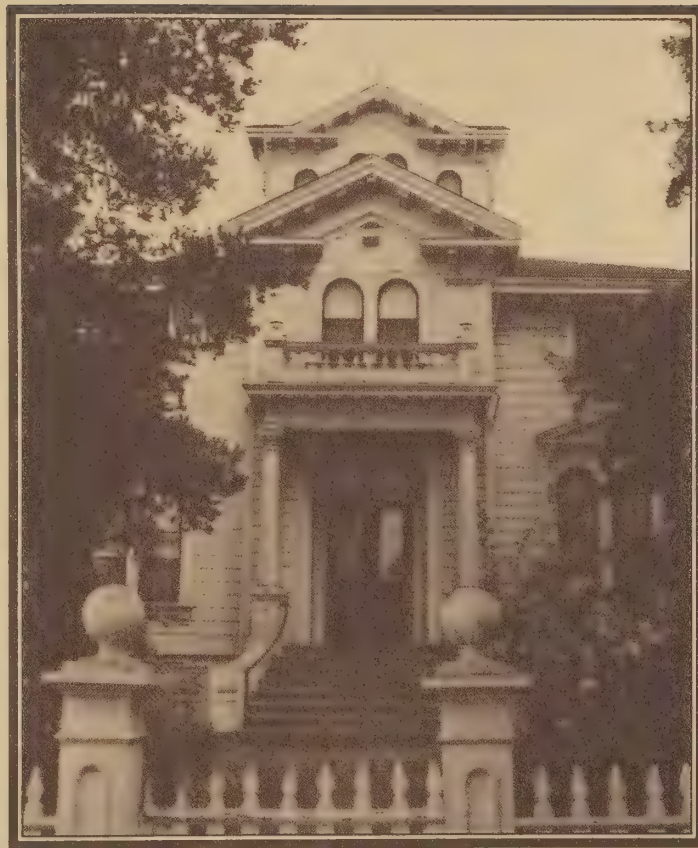
The Quinn House
 1605 Filbert (Formerly in freeway-right-of-way)



The Charles S. Greene Library
Fourteenth and Grove Streets

Focal point of Preservation Park is the **Pardee Mansion**. It was built just after the earthquake of 1868, by **Dr. Enoch Pardee** a civic-minded physician. He was a mayor of Oakland and a state senator. His son George, also a physician, later lived in the house with his wife and four daughters. He, too, was a mayor of Oakland, and in 1902 was elected governor of California. Because of his lifelong interest in improving the quality of Oakland's water, he played a key role in the formation of the East Bay Municipal Utility District. The house is still owned and occupied by members of the Pardee family.

The **Charles S. Greene Library**, originally **The Oakland Main Library**, was built in 1902 with a gift from Andrew Carnegie and a public fund drive conducted by members of the Ebell Society, the first women's society in the west and which celebrated its centennial in 1976. The library was designed by the San Francisco firm of **Bliss and Faville** in the classic Beaux Arts tradition and was innovative in using fine detailing in the public interiors, as well as commissioned works of art by noted architects.



The Pardee Mansion
672 Eleventh Street

LAST LADY OF THE LAKE

In the late 1880's, the shore of Lake Merritt (only shortly before called Lake Peralta) was ringed with stately mansions—a showcase of fine Victorians proudly displaying the professional and business status of the owners. The last remaining house, a graceful and finely detailed Italianate villa, is the **Camron-Stanford House**. Today this fine landmark is being meticulously restored to tell the story of the families that lived there, as well as its singular history as the first “teaching museum” in the west, The Oakland Public Museum. This museum, which was in operation at this location from 1907 to 1967, was based on the innovative ideas of its first curator, **Charles Wilcomb**.

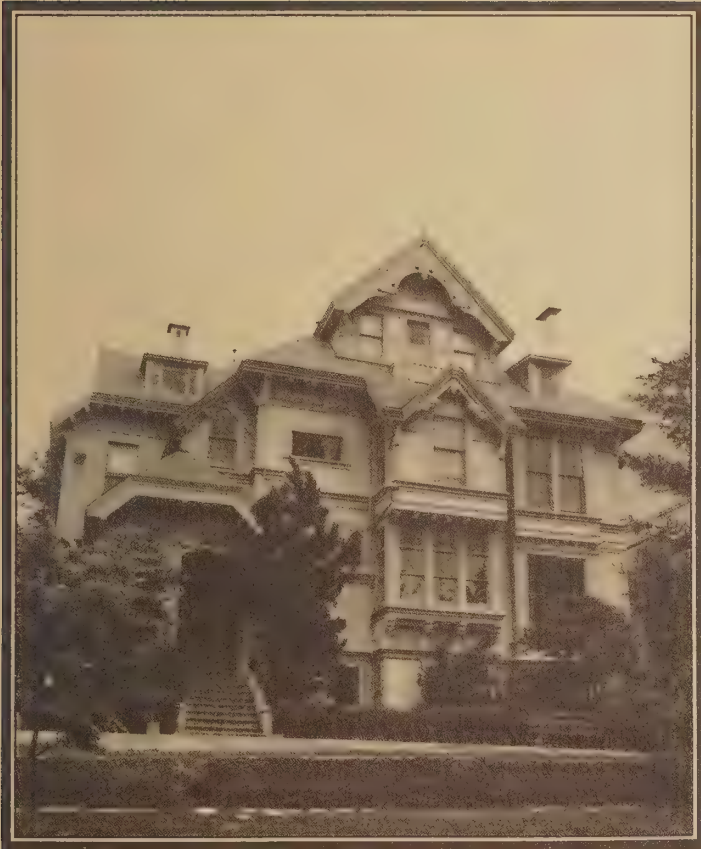
The transformation from abandoned “ugly duckling” (after Oakland's magnificent new museum structure opened in 1967), is due to the efforts of a dedicated group of volunteers who saved the house from demolition and developed a well-comprised plan of using part of the building as a museum, part as a teaching facility and the remainder as office space for non-profit organizations. Two authentically decorated front parlors, a solarium, an art gallery (stated to be the first gallery in the East Bay) and a ground floor room explaining the history of the original museum are open for public tours free of charge on Wednesday and Sunday. Slide shows are also presented illustrating Oakland's past.

The house gets its name from its first and third owners, **Will Camron**, who served on Oakland's City Council and was elected State Assemblyman in 1880 and **Josiah Stanford** brother of Leland Stanford, founder of Stanford University. The rooms that are decorated are from the second owner, **David Hewes**, who resided in the house from 1878 to 1883.



The Camron-Stanford House
1426 Lakeside Drive

MINER'S MANSION NOW A GOLD MINE FOR THE ARTS



Treadwell Hall
College of Arts and Crafts, 5212 Broadway

Little information is available about the early day owners of **Treadwell Hall**, the Victorian mansion which forms the nucleus of the group of structures making up Oakland's distinguished **College of Arts and Crafts**. This fine house along with its carriage house and two large redwood trees has been designated a landmark. An original architecture drawing indicates the house was designed by **Clinton Day** for **W.E. Hale** around 1880. In 1888 the estate was purchased by **James Treadwell**, second son of a prominent mining family, who moved to California from Canada during the Civil War.

Treadwell family members developed a flourishing gold mine near Juneau, Alaska, which they sold in the late 1880's for \$6,000,000. They then shifted their activities to coal mining at Telsa, near Tracy, operated the Alameda and San Joaquin Railroad, and built a glass factory, and a pottery and brick plant. Three generations of Treadwells enjoyed the house, participating in numerous social and civic events there. The carriage house sheltered vehicles which brought visitors from the streetcar line at 45th and Telegraph to the home. In 1905, a high concrete wall and iron gateway were built to protect the estate on the side facing Broadway. The estate was purchased in 1923 by **Fredrick Meyer** for \$60,000 for his College of Arts and Crafts which was then located in Berkeley. It has been altered for college use, but most of the changes are compatible with its style.

THE LITERARY GREATS

Of the many whose literary fame has roots in Oakland (**Gertrude Stein**, who put the “there” here; **Lincoln Steffens**, one of the best known of the early 20th Century muckrakers; **Joaquin Miller**, the poet of the Sierras; dancer **Isadora Duncan**, whose autobiography anticipates *Women’s Lib*; **Edwin Markham**, the Oakland school teacher who wrote “*The Man with the Hoe*”; **Am-brose Bierce**, the humorist; **Ina Coolbrith**, Oakland librarian, and California’s **Poet Laureate**; all the way up to **Jessica Mitford**, to name only a few), the one who has best captured the imagination of people all over the world is **Jack London**. London was world traveler, oyster pirate, professed Socialist, prospector, sailor, spellbinding novelist and more. The handsome young rebel spun adventure tales of the Far North and other exotic places which have been translated into almost every language. Today, London is the most widely read American author in the U.S.S.R. His tragic, premature death can be especially contemplated as one walks among the ruins of Wolf House, his last home in Sonoma County.

London, rivaling the “George Washington slept here” legends of the East Coast, lived in many houses in the Bay Area. Most of his residences are now gone, but it was in the house at 1914 Foothill Boulevard (formerly numbered 962 East 16th Street) that he wrote his first published short story, “*To the Man on the Trail*,” and his first book, “*Son of the Wolf*.” A picture in the London collection in the Oakland History room of the Oakland Public Library shows him, feet propped up on his paper-cluttered desk in this house, dedicated to his purpose of writing 1000 words a day, six days a week. The year was 1896, and he had just re-



Jack London House
1914 Foothill Boulevard

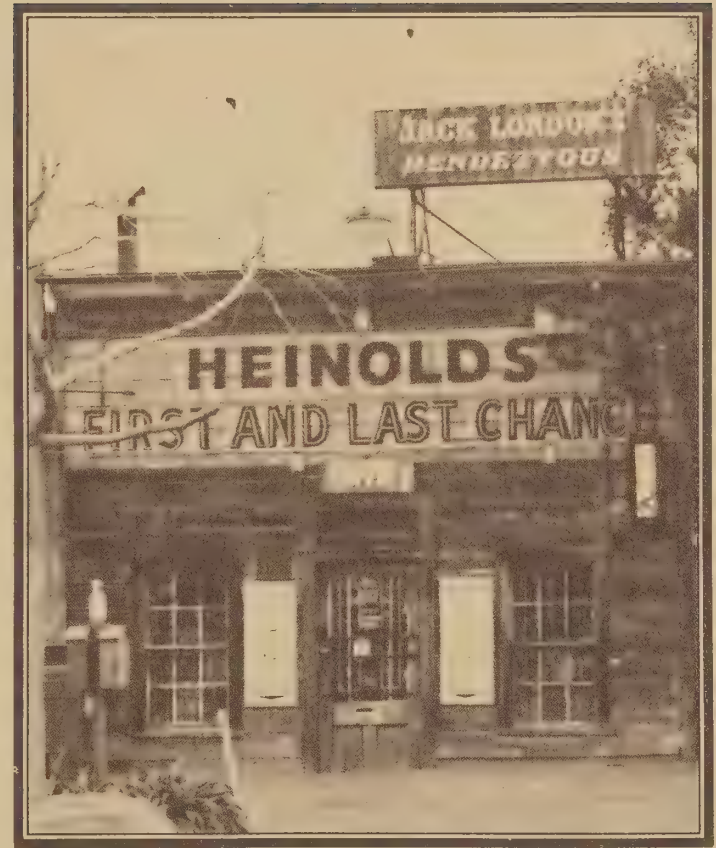
turned from a 16-month adventure prospecting along the Yukon in the Klondike with an intense desire to write.

By the spring of 1900, when London moved to a 15th Street residence, his articles and stories had appeared in more than five periodicals including *Atlantic Monthly* and his book was published by Houghton Mifflin. At the age of 24, after writing for scarcely two years, this was a truly remarkable achievement.

The London cottage on Foothill Boulevard, built probably around 1890, by builder or architect unknown, is a typical wood frame one-story Queen Anne house featuring a slanted bay capped by a gable roof. Most of the original embellishments have been removed, but the present owner of the property is hoping to restore it to its authentic 1898 condition and perhaps fill its interior with London memorabilia.

Known as “Jack London’s Rendezvous,” **Heinold’s First and Last Chance** was frequented by the young author in his oyster pirating days in the Oakland dock area. The saloon takes its name from its former location at the Oakland end of the old Webster Street Bridge where it offered travelers a first or last chance to get a drink upon leaving or prior to entering Alameda, at that time a “dry” city.

Structurally, Heinold’s is little more than a simple false front shack, typical of the early days of the west. London’s fame as an author has kept it well patronized, even after its other claim to fame disappeared with removal of the Webster Street Bridge about 1929. It is now owned by the Port of Oakland.



Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon
Jack London Square

COLUMBUS

Behind him lay the gray
Azores.
Behind the Gates of Hercules;
Before him not the ghost of
shores,
Before him only shoreless seas.
The good mate said: "Now
must we pray,
For lo! the very stars are gone.
Brave Adm'r'l, speak, what
shall I say?"
"Why, say, Sail on! Sail on and
on!"

JOAQUIN MILLER REACHED "THE HIGHTS"

Few of today's older generation who were educated in the west will ever forget Columbus Day. The school's finest orator, dressed in his or her Sunday best, always recited with great dramatic flair **Joaquin Miller's** most famous work, the poem "*Columbus*." Although it may not live on any more in school auditoriums, the poem is still included in hundreds of anthologies of poetry in libraries throughout the world and the fame of Oakland's most eccentric literary personality continues to intrigue history buffs and visitors to the area. The tour of **Joaquin Miller Park** in the Oakland hills, off Joaquin Miller Road near the Warren Freeway, is mandatory to any newcomer to the area. There you will discover not only **The Abbey**, Miller's home and studio, but



The Abbey
Joaquin Miller Park

also a collection of strange rock cairns, monuments to various Miller favorites—**General John C. Fremont**, **Robert Browning**, **Moses** and even Miller's own intended funeral pyre which was to be the scene of an Indian-style cremation, but was never permitted.

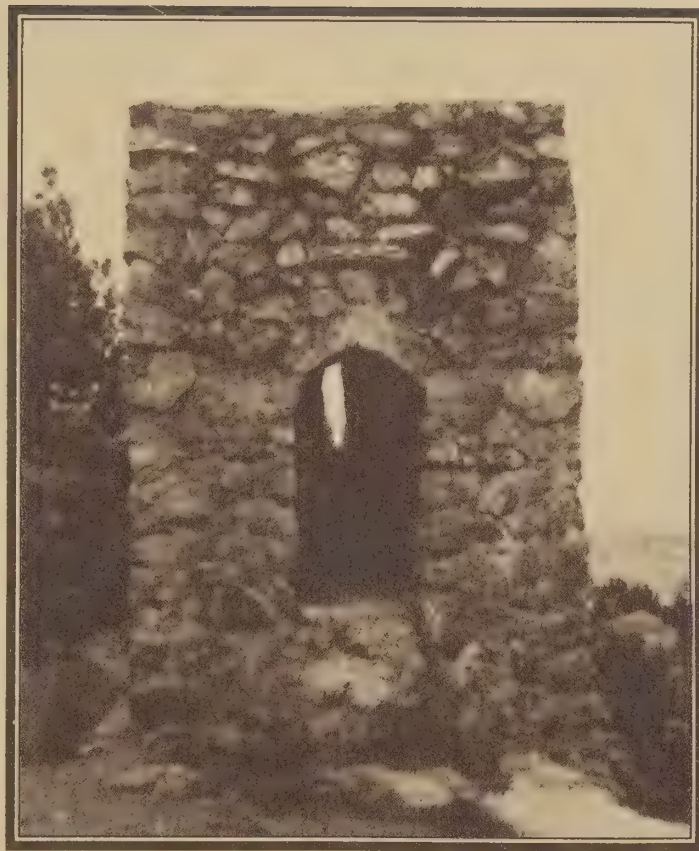
The Fremont Monument, according to the romantic poet, is at the approximate site where the legendary general, scout and explorer in 1864 first viewed the Bay and named the "Golden Gate."

The self-styled Joaquin Miller was born Cincinnatus Heine Miller in Oregon in 1842. At the age of nine, he ran away from home and pursued a life of adventure which took him all over the world. The small man, clad in rough western clothing, was friend of the political and literary greats of Europe. He even had the honor of an audience with Queen Victoria!

After he settled in the Oakland hills in 1870, at the "**The Hights**" which he perversely insisted on misspelling, many of those renowned people visited Miller, his wife Abbie, and daughter Juanita. Their literary salons were legendary. He also planted hundreds of trees of various kinds in the Oakland hills, many of which are thriving today.

The Abbey, named for his wife, is of wood frame construction, with rustic siding and rock foundations. The central portion resembles a Gothic chapel with pointed windows and door hood, flanked by flat-roofed wings. There were other buildings in the compound such as a small house for Juanita, a rustic little theater, and quarters for friends, but most were destroyed by a fire a few years ago.

The interior of the Abbey is not restored and is not open to visitors but there is a picnic area and trails lead to the monuments.



Monument to General John C. Fremont
Joaquin Miller Park



AN ELEGANT COTTAGE

J. Mora Moss, a pioneer resident of Oakland, must have been an early day advocate of women's rights when he married **Julia Wood** in the 1860's. He bowed to her wishes that their estate located "way out" on Broadway be named **Mosswood**.

The lovely old home, now in the center of Oakland's **Mosswood Park**, was designed by architect **S.H. Williams** in the style of the Gothic Revival cottages built in the eastern United States by Alexander Jackson Downing. Most of Downing's houses have been destroyed, and today only his pattern books of the 1850's bear witness to the popularity of the charming structures.

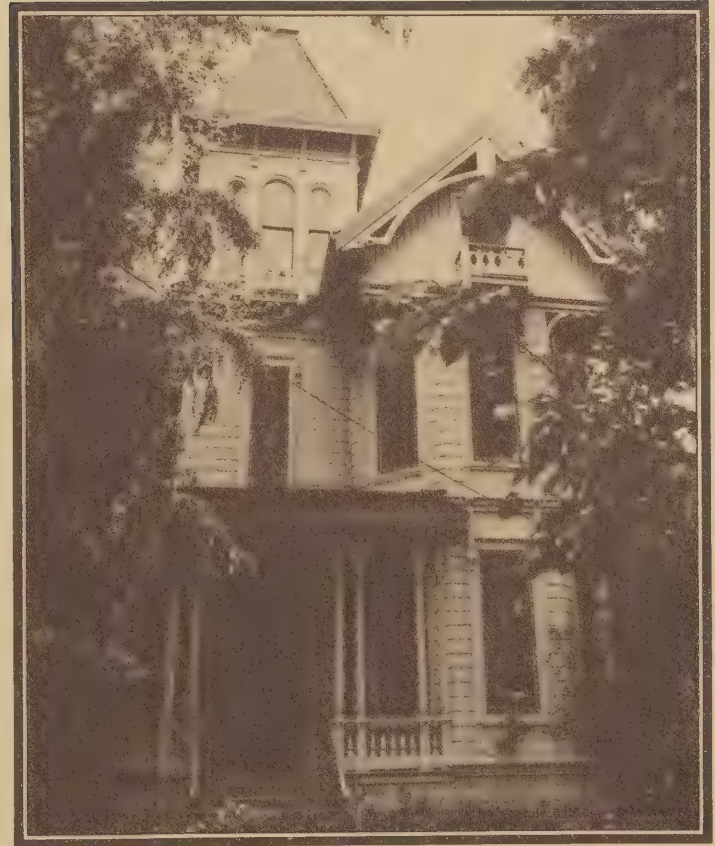
Moss Cottage, which was built in 1864, is now one of the few remaining houses of its kind in California. Gothic motifs are still in evidence at the fireplaces, stairs, door panels, moldings for walls and ceilings, as well as in plaster cartouches from which hang ornamental gas lighting fixtures. The finely crafted roof gables of the exterior are also notable gothic elements. A few plants from the original botanical gardens still remain in the park. The house is now used for park offices and classes.

Moss Cottage
Mosswood Park on Webster Street

AN EAST OAKLAND JEWEL

In 1884, when **Emma Bray**, daughter of a prominent Bay Area grain merchant married **Alfred H. Cohen**, attorney son of an attorney for the Southern Pacific Railroad, this graceful stick and Queen Anne styled house in East Oakland was the scene of the festive occasion and a wedding gift to the young couple from the bride's parents. The house was furnished and decorated with custom-designed treasures from Europe and other parts of the world as a gift from the groom's parents.

Irregular in plan, the two-story structure is wood frame, with a rosy beige painted wood exterior and a pyramidal tower terminating in a third story from the square entrance element. Original features of both exterior and interior of this distinguished house have been preserved, making it one of the finest examples of its type in the Bay Area. Four generations of the original family have lived in and enjoyed this beautiful home and it is still owned by members of the family.



The Alfred H. Cohen House
1440 29th Avenue

A PRESIDENT LIVED HERE

Herbert Clark Hoover, humanitarian statesman and the 31st President of the United States, lived briefly at 1077 Twelfth Street with his older brother Theodore, and younger sister May. On his first voter registration affidavit, dated July 10, 1896, Hoover listed 1077 (now 1079/1081) Twelfth Street as his official residence and gave his occupation as "Mining Engineer."

The **Hoover House** is a typical Victorian residential structure of the period. It is in a simplified Queen Anne style, featuring decorative stick work and a living room bay with windows at the first floor. The second level has a fish scale patterned shingled exterior with a decorative trim.

Hoover lived in the Twelfth Street house after graduating from Stanford University in its first class, where he majored in geology and engineering. He was employed by the international engineering firm of Louis Janin, and for the next fourteen years he and his wife lived all over the world. World War I found the Hoovers in London, and on his own initiative, he helped more than 150,000 stranded Americans to return to this country. The Belgian National Relief Committee then called upon him to aid the starving people of Belgium by arranging to send food and clothing through the blockade. Hoover was next called home by President Wilson to be the United States Food Administrator and after the war, he headed the American Relief Administration which sent millions of tons of food to the war-ravaged European countries. In 1928, Hoover won the presidency, defeating the flamboyant Alfred E. Smith of New York.



The Hoover House
1079/81 (formerly 1077) Twelfth Street



The Tribune Tower
13th and Franklin Streets

A SKYLINE BEACON

The beacon of Oakland's skyline, the **Tribune Tower**, was built in 1923 as an annex to the Tribune Publishing Company next door. At the dedication ceremonies in May of that year, an estimated 10,000 people watched the great Houdini, magician and escape artist, free himself from a strait-jacket while suspended head down 112 feet above the pavement. And until 1958, the tower reigned supreme as Oakland's second tallest building, only nine feet shy of the City Hall's eminence. Today it is fifth, topped by the Kaiser building, the Ordway building, the Clorox building and City Hall.

The Tribune Tower was designed by architect **Edward Foulkes**, who also designed the Woodminster Amphitheater and founded the California Spring Garden Show in 1930 with which he remained associated for 25 years. His goal for the Tribune Tower was that it should symbolize Oakland's arrival as a metropolis and the achievement of the East Bay community.

The graceful Spanish architectural elements of the Tribune Tower pay tribute to Oakland's past when it was the heart of the grazing land of the Peralta family's Rancho San Antonio. The distinctive verdigris green coloring of the steeple is due to the weathering of its original copper sheathing. Its four-faced clock can be seen for miles around and was moved from the smaller Tribune building at its side.

EARLY DAY CHURCHES— SOME CARRY ON TODAY

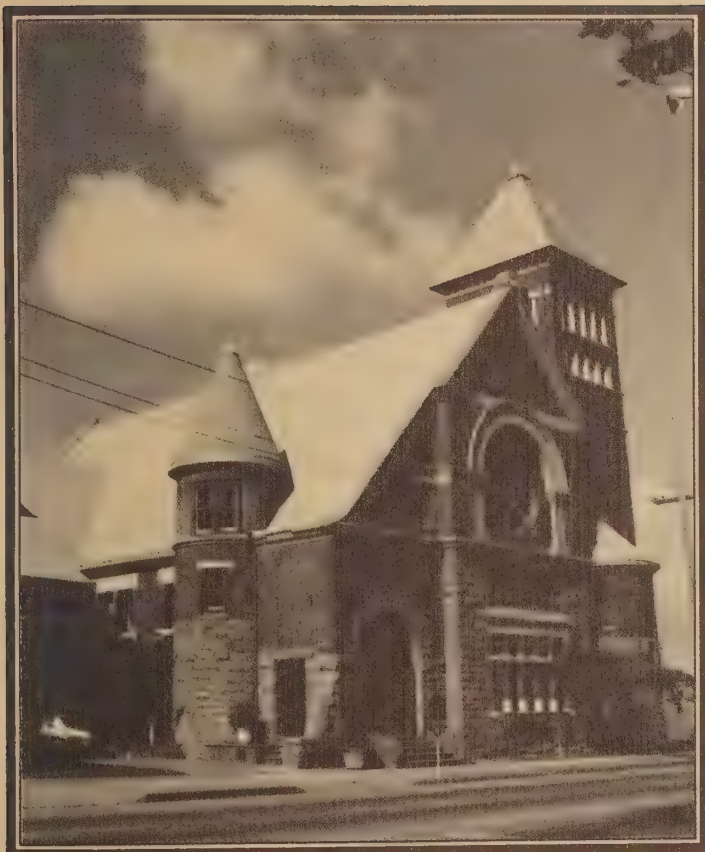
From its earliest days, Oakland, which was largely a family community, attracted churches of many denominations to serve its growing population. By 1870, more than 11,000 residents could boast of ten churches, six hotels, seven private and six public schools.

Several churches served ethnic groups nurturing their European heritage as well as their religious needs, including the Jewish community with Temple Beth Jacob at 12th and Castro Streets (which is now demolished). Another prominent emigrant group, people of Greek descent, also used churches not only as places of worship, but also as cultural centers to preserve their heritage and customs. Such was the **Greek Orthodox Church of the Assumption** at 920 Brush Street. It is the oldest Greek Orthodox church in the East Bay area and second oldest in the state. This church, located in the Grove-Shafter freeway right-of-way, is scheduled to be relocated. Artistically, the structure is distinguished for its pure neo-Greek classic elements stated in the Beaux Arts style. Its plan is in the shape of a Greek cross with equal arms. The sanctuary is divided into three parts to accommodate the celebration of the Greek liturgy. In recent years, the Greek congregation moved to a new church in the hill area, and the old Oakland structure has served other denominations, but it is hoped a complete restoration will be possible in the future.

Perhaps the most architecturally distinctive church in the old Oakland area is the **First Unitarian Church** at Fourteenth and Castro Streets. The congregation was first assembled at other lo-



The Greek Orthodox Church
920 Brush Street (freeway right-of-way)



The First Unitarian Church
685 Fourteenth Street

cations, but in 1890, its permanent home was built, and the church continues to flourish today.

The distinguished structure, located in Preservation Park, is a superb example of Romanesque Revival architecture. It was designed by **Walter J. Matthews**, a member of a prominent family of Bay Area architects and artists. It is his only example of ecclesiastical architecture.

The materials used in the church are mainly native Californian, including much redwood. Suggestive of a sailing ship's hull, the arching ceiling spans were the longest built of redwood up to that time. Pews and much of interior of the sanctuary are golden oak. The exterior makes use of brick and stone to carry out Romanesque motifs. Although part of the tower was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake, it was rebuilt with scarcely any visual impact.

The Reverend Charles William Wendte, a popular minister of the church, attracted a large congregation of prominent Oakland residents, and at the turn-of-the-century the church was also the center of many cultural activities in the community. Distinguished members of the congregation have included Governor Perkins, then U.S. Senator; Governor George C. Pardee; Major Charles Lee Tilden, founder of the East Bay Regional Park District; Josiah Stanford; Aurelia Henry Reinhardt, president of Mills College; and Henry Durant, one of the founders and first president of the University of California.



The Fox/Oakland Theater
1817-23 Telegraph Avenue

THE ART DECO MOVIE PALACES

In the larger cities of the United States, people crushed by the Great Depression of the Thirties, had a quick escape. For only a few cents, they could buy an admission ticket to a sumptuous palace—a movie palace—a building rivaling anything built by a king or shah of the bejewelled East, sit back in a richly upholstered seat and be transported to a world of fantasy and dreams by the latest “talkie.” In Oakland, the same ticket also bought you a Fanchon & Marco vaudeville show, complete with a line of shapely chorus girls, a live orchestra or sometimes a concert on the “mighty Wurlitzer.” And the bill changed once a week!

Downtown Oakland today contains two such movie palaces, the **Fox Oakland** and the **Paramount**. The latter, built in 1931, with the exception of the Radio City Music Hall in New York, was the last great movie palace built in the nation.

Both theaters were designed in the Art Deco style of architecture—Egyptian, Byzantine, Islamic and other Eastern forms and

motifs expressed in contemporary building materials—chrome, aluminum, concrete, stainless steel and ceramic tile.

The **Fox Oakland**, which opened in 1928, was designed by the San Francisco architecture firm of **Weeks and Day**. It is an early example of a current popular trend, the “mixed use” complex, which combines the theater with offices and street level shops. It was the only “deluxe” theater in the area which admitted minority residents. The main entrance is capped by a colored tile dome with vertical towers of a style typical of Northern India. The interior also incorporates elaborate Eastern motifs into its structural forms, and features an ornamented coffered ceiling along with two huge Buddha-like figures at each side of the stage. They have red glass eyes which glow with light and lap-held urns which pour forth steam.

The **Paramount**, home of the Oakland Symphony, has been meticulously restored to its former elegance. The theater opened in 1931 with a spectacular preview. Designed by **Timothy Pfleuger**, also known for his Pacific Telephone Building in San Francisco, its interior walls display huge stylized *bas* relief murals in stamped metal. Specially woven upholstery and lavishly decorated carpets duplicate the originals. The lobby is designed in futuristic style with a combination of many motifs highlighted with steel and other metallic trim.

The exterior of the Paramount has a 50-foot high marquee bisecting a colorful terra cotta tile mural, with two large Byzantine figures dominating many smaller ones. These represent the many areas of entertainment.

The theater has won many awards, among them the designation of National Historic Landmark, State of California Historic Landmark and California Heritage Council Citation.



The Paramount Theatre
2025 Broadway

THE MARK OF JULIA MORGAN

The **Oakland Y.W.C.A.** was founded in 1877 and its record of service to the community, particularly to women, minorities and senior citizens has been outstanding. The Webster Street headquarters, dedicated in 1914, was built following a public fund drive led by Oakland merchant **H.C. Capwell**. It was the first of seventeen Y.W.C.A. buildings that the eminent **Julia Morgan** designed. The structure is of reinforced concrete, faced with brick and glazed terra cotta tiles, and focuses on a central interior atrium which was originally open. The building contains one of Oakland's first indoor swimming pools where thousands of Oakland residents have learned to swim. There is also a complete little theater which is embellished with carved wood details typical of the Craftsman period, a gymnasium and many sizeable public rooms also featuring unique detailing.

Julia Morgan, born in San Francisco in 1872 and raised in Oakland, was one of the country's outstanding architects. She was the first woman to receive an engineering degree from the University of California at Berkeley, and she received her architectural training at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. She perhaps won her greatest fame as the architect of William Randolph Hearst's San Simeon castle, but she also designed more than 700 buildings in her long career, most of which are truly distinguished.



The Oakland Y.W.C.A.
1515 Webster Street

GATEWAY TO THE TWENTIES

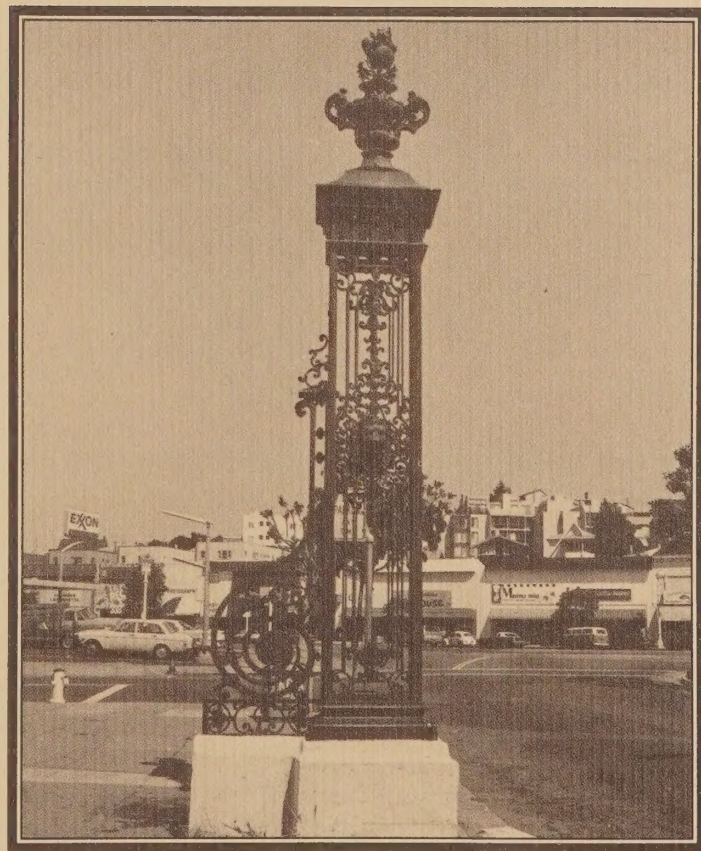
A finely wrought example of the ironworker's art, the **Lakeshore Highlands Portals**, stand today as an example of a new way of life which began in the first decade of the 20th Century—the movement to the suburbs.

The Lakeshore Highlands residential park was laid out by the Olmstead brothers, sons of the country's foremost landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmstead. Their gently curving streets and quiet cul-de-sacs followed the contours of the narrow canyon, not the customary grid pattern usually superimposed on the land regardless of the terrain.

At the dedication ceremony of the park in June 1918, the Oakland Tribune reported that the 14-foot high pylons and the 700 foot connecting iron fence were "the object of much favorable comment." They were designed by **Bakewell and Brown**, the architects of San Francisco's City Hall, and modeled after 15th Century gates at Nancy, France.

The Lakeshore Highlands residential park was the site of a popular turn-of-the-century amusement park and picnic ground. It was more commonly called Trestle Glen, or in earlier days, the Sather tract. The canyon was bridged with a long trestle carrying fanciful double-decked trolley cars which transported throngs of visitors to the park.

The canyon was previously known as Indian Gulch, as the lower end near today's Lakeshore Avenue was the site of a Costanoan Indian village. Although these native Americans lived here for some 4,000 years, their needs were easily met and they barely left a footprint on the land.



Lakeshore Highlands Portals
Longridge and Trestle Glen Roads

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